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REMARKS BY

**U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
ANNOUNCEMENT OF USAID GRANT TO THE
BANGLADESH CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE FUND
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD BANK**

ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION, DHAKA

MAY 24, 2012

The Honorable Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP, Minister of Environment and Forests

Mr. Mesbah ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Mr. Md. Shafiqul Azam, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division

Ms. Ellen A. Goldstein, Country Director, World Bank

Development partners, other representatives of the government, distinguished
colleagues and friends:

Climate change ...

Just two simple words ...

Climate change ...

Some deny the phenomenon called climate change even exists.

But Bangladesh knows the reality of climate change and the deep threat that it poses to
the well-being of the nation's people.

I am proud that America is Bangladesh's partner in responding to the effects of
climate change.

Today we take the partnership between America and Bangladesh in the struggle
against climate change to a new height.

I am pleased to announce today that the U.S. Government (USG), through the United
States Agency for International Development (USAID), will make an initial obligation of \$9

million to support the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund. The total U.S. grant to the Fund is \$13 million over four years, as announced by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during her recent visit to Bangladesh. The United States is especially pleased to be joining with the World Bank and other development partners to help implement this important initiative.

This is a new approach to development assistance for the United States.

In April, I announced USAID's first ever contribution to a pooled, multi-donor trust fund to support the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Health Sector Development program.

Today we acknowledge the second such engagement by USAID. This is all part of USAID's new approach to more directly support government programs in alignment with other development partners.

This assistance is part of America's continuing support to the people of Bangladesh to achieve their long-term development objectives, as defined in the Government of Bangladesh's 6th Five Year Plan.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, so responding to this threat is critical to addressing Bangladesh's development challenges. America's contribution to the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund will help enable the government, under the most capable leadership of Minister Hasan, to combat the impact of global climate change.

The funds that America is committing today are part of President Obama's Global Climate Change Initiative to help countries like Bangladesh build their resilience to climate change.

As Secretary Clinton said during her recent visit to Bangladesh, the partnership between America and Bangladesh is strong and deep, and this occasion today is but the latest evidence of America's commitment to this partnership with Bangladesh.

America and Bangladesh are the strongest partners in fighting the effects of climate change, as we are in providing access to primary health care for 30 million Bangladeshis, reducing maternal and child mortality, enabling Bangladeshis to have the family size they want, fighting TB and HIV/AIDS, improving food security, strengthening the country's

democratic institutions, helping the police shift to a new approach to policing, community policing, helping security forces improve their ability to defend the nation's sea and land borders, and this list goes on and on. The bottom line is that America's strong partnership with Bangladesh has done much to improve the well-being of millions of Bangladeshis. America's engagement with Bangladesh goes beyond development assistance. We are Bangladesh's single largest export destination, Bangladesh's largest investor, its third largest source of remittances, and most popular destination for advanced education. Bangladesh's exports to America create hundreds of thousands of jobs in Bangladesh and help fuel this robust economy.

I am, indeed, proud of what America's partnership with Bangladesh has done to help Bangladeshis improve their quality of life.

My colleague, Richard Greene, USAID/Bangladesh Mission Director, will provide some specifics on our programs to address climate change and environmental challenges in Bangladesh.

Thank you!

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Prepared for delivery

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